691 692 *613 554 627 between me and my cousins, according to Bedouin law (yinafth al-'awaiyid bainaana). I went to the shaikh because my cousins did not agree that we go to the 'aqila right away. We agreed that the shaikh would choose the third party, and the judgment would be binding on both of us. The shaikh chose Bu Halaiqa as the third party, and Bu Halaiqa chose three others as consultants. (Two of the three were rajal khair, and the other was an 'aqila.) The judgment was that my cousins were in the wrong. They were fined 10 L.E. and a dhabiiha("blood sacrifice"). 'Ali intervened and did not allow my cousins to pay the fine. He had them write a paper stating, that if they resume this quarrel in the future they must pay the fine plus another 10 L.E. fine. (Hajj 'Ali is a rajal khair.)

695 648 •696 Sometimes the Egyptian police must be brought into a judicial affair to insure the execution of a judgment. In one case, an individual in al-Qasr did not accept the decision of his 'aqila; his 'aqila wrote the decision on paper and sent him to another 'aqila. The second 'aqila agreed with the first, but the man also refused this decision. The second 'aqila wrote his decision on paper and sent it to the shaikh of the 'Aishaibat in Matruh. The shaikh summoned the culprit and sent him to the police station. Finally, the police were able to convince the man to pay his fine, and also his expiation fee to his own 'aqila. My informant said that this was a minor affair, and that had it been a serious offense committed by the man he would have been threatened with expulsion from the corporate group.

*613 554 571 As the corporate sole, the 'aqila has political authority which is legitimate and morally binding on all who wish to maintain their status in the group and tribe. Any individual